community support, flexible schooling for the hardest to reach children, special provision to promote education of girls, as well as children with special need. The Mid-day Meal programme also complements the strategy to reduce drop-out rates.

Central Government has decided to implement a centrally sponsored Scheme for Universalisation of Access to and Improvement of Quality of Education at Secondary Stage (SUCCESS) with the objective to make secondary education of good quality available, accessible and affordable to all young persons by providing a secondary school within 5 kilometer of every habitation. Besides, it is also proposed to set up 6,000 good quality secondary schools at block level, at the rate of one school in each block, which will serve as benchmark of excellence for other schools in the area. It has also been decided to implement various incentive schemes like (i) 'National Means cum Merit Scholarship', (ii) a national incentive scheme for girls to pursue secondary education, and (iii) a scheme for girls' hostels for girls studying in secondary classes; which would also help in reducing drop-out rates.

Clustering of higher education institutions

324. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be plesed to state:

(a) whether the UGC is pursuing the project of clustering higher education institutions with the objective of optimum utilization of the existing facilities;

(b) if so, in how many States the project is under implementation and what are they;

(c) whether any of the institutions in Andhra Pradesh are covered under the said project;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the financial outlays disbursed during the last three years, year-wise; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Women university in all States

325. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to open a women university in all the States;

(b) if so, the status thereof *inter alia,* indicating the time-frame within which it would be established in Orissa;

(c) whether the VCs have made a suggestion for decentralization of administration of universities to control delays in decision-making; and

(d) if so, the status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Central Government.

(c) and (d) Universities are autonomous bodies and the Central Government is committed to maintaining the autonomy of Institutions of higher learning.

Exorbitant fees in private educational institutions

326. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up a plan to control private educational institutions charging exorbitant fees without approval of UGC and AICTE;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government is aware that some private institutions like IIPM is luring students with freebies like free laptops and foreign trips; and

(d) if so, whether Government proposes to take stern action against such institutions and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Fee chargeable by private professional education institutions is regulated by the State level Fee Committees constituted as per the Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgement dated 14.8.2003 in the case of "Islamic Academy of Education and another *Vs.* State of Karnataka and Others."

(c) and (d) Concerned regulatory bodies like All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Medical Council of India (MCI) can take action in the event of violation of above orders. Besides, University Grants Commission (UGC) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) also take action in case of violation of their respective regulations.

Teacher absenteeism in Jharkhand

327. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many schools do not function in Jharkhand due to absenteeism of teachers;

(b) how many schools have just a single teacher or a single classroom which are having primary or middle level classes; and

(c) by when all the schools would have a teacher for each class and a classroom for each of the classes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) As per information received from the Jharkhand Education Project Council, Ranchi, no school has been closed due to absenteeism of teachers in Jharkhand. The State has reported 6571 Government primary and upper primary school with single teacher and 1646 single classroom schools.

Under SSA till 2007-08, 91890 teachers, 16531 school buildings and 30120 additional classrooms have been sanctioned to Jharkhand.